



MEETING MINUTES

9 October 2012

Committee Members Present: Beck Beckwith, Joy Cipriano, Marti Chick-Ebey, Pete Fairchild, John Gately, Ed Hicks, Arnold Lorea, Peggy Mertz, Burnie Peters, John Pritchard, Tony Soltys, Bill Tucker, and Chuck Valliant.

City Representatives Present: Ann Bane, Bruce Sturk and Jim Wilson

Visitors: Command Chief Master Sergeant Gary Carter, First Fighter Wing, JBLE
Shelly Bennett, Team Depot Captain, Home Depot
Brian DeProfio, Acting Director, Hampton Air and Space Museum

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for LTC Lee A, Lewis, Sr.
- II. Review and Approval of 14 August 2012 Minutes. Ed Hicks made a motion for approval, seconded by Arnold Lorea and approved unanimously.
- III. Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Dedication of the Ruppert Sargent Building.
 - A. Pete Fairchild summarized the 2001-2002 campaign to fund, plan and execute the dedication of the Ruppert Sargent Building that now stands at 1 Franklin Street and in which we meet monthly. Brian Deprofio added his own recollections. Both emphasized that Korean War veteran Andy Greenwell's role was crucial throughout the process and he remains on good terms with Ruppert Sargent's son, Steve Sargent, and with Ruppert's widow, Mary Jo, who is remarried and still living in Phoebus. Andy's role began in 1967 and continued for thirty-five years. William R. (Bill) Wilson (1932-2008), a MOPH Past Department of Virginia Commander and a former member of the MAC, and John Voss, who was active in the MAC at that time and in American Legion Post 31 on Victoria Blvd. also made valuable suggestions and contributions throughout the process. Vic Johnston, who continues with Langley AFB First Fighter Wing Public Affairs, coordinated a very memorable aspect of the ceremonial support -- a flyover by USAF jets on dedication day, October 5th, 2002.
 - B. Extract below is Courtesy of Hampton Website:
<http://www.hampton.va.us/medalofhonor/about.html>.

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"Hampton Dedicates New Administration Building In Honor of Local Medal of Honor Recipient"



A hometown and national hero received special honors on October 5, 2002 when the city of Hampton dedicated the Ruppert Leon Sargent Memorial City Administration Building in downtown Hampton.

The 117,000-square-foot, seven story building is named in honor of Hampton's only Medal of Honor recipient. Army 1LT Sargent, a native of the Phoebus section of Hampton, sacrificed his life in the Vietnam War in 1967, to save the life of fellow soldiers. In 1969, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military decoration for valor.

A platoon leader with Co. B, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division "Tropic Lightning," 1LT Sargent was born, raised and educated in Hampton, and is buried in Hampton National Cemetery.

The high-rise municipal structure houses the offices of the Hampton Schools Administration, the Hampton Commissioner of Revenue, City Treasurer, and departments of Planning, Assessors, Economic Development and Retail Development.

Designed by CMSS Architects and constructed by Blueridge General Contractors, the Ruppert Leon Sargent Memorial Building features a Hampton Veterans Conference Room on the first floor for public use.

A fund-raising drive, co-chaired by former Virginia Senate Majority Leader Hunter B. Andrews and Major General (retired) Wallace Arnold, U.S. Army, collected some \$50,000 in donations for a bronze bust of Hampton's national hero, other adornments in the building honoring Hampton's veterans, and the dedication itself. The head-and-shoulders bust of 1Lt Sargent will be on permanent display in the building's lobby."

IV. Guest Speaker. Shelly Bennett, Home Depot.

- A. Home Depot is very committed to their customers, whether it is inside the store, or out in the community. Giving back, taking care of one another, doing the right thing and building strong relationships are the values that drive Home Depot and the Home Depot Foundation. We are committed to ensuring that every veteran has a safe place to call home. Starting in 2011, the Home Depot Foundation started a campaign to reach that goal, called The Celebration of Service by pledging \$30 million dollars over the next three years for this

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purpose. We intend to plan and lead 200 *volunteer* projects. There will be nine *signature* projects with a minimum of 100 Home Depot volunteers and 100 volunteers from the community. There will be 20 *large* projects with 50 Home Depot volunteers and 50 volunteers. There will be 200 *grassroots* projects with 5-50 volunteers. All these projects will benefit veterans, their families or caregivers, whether the project is designed to physically improve a veteran's home or a veteran-serving facility (VFW, American Legion Hall, Fisher House Foundation), or physically improve the community in general (schools, parks, community centers).

- B. Every store has a Team Depot Captain that plans and leads successful and meaningful volunteer projects and serves as an ambassador to the community, working with local and national nonprofit partners to create positive change in their community. We do not do fund dinners, auctions, fundraisers, sports sponsorships or golf tournaments. The Home Depot funds nonprofit organizations engaged in building, rebuilding and refurbishing community projects.
- C. Currently we have a signature project we will be completing on October 24, 2012 in Virginia Beach for the VetHouse Inc. We will be replacing the flooring in two homes as well as installing a shed, gutters, replacing rotting steps, bi-fold doors, vanities, building a fence and mulching flower beds. All who participate in such projects are volunteers, passionate about helping our communities and giving back.
- D. We look forward to doing projects here in Hampton for local vets and vet-related interests and building a strong relationship with your committee and its members. Your Chairman, John Gately, I and other members of our local Home Depot staff are reviewing candidates for support. (John later invited any MAC members interested in becoming more involved in the selection process to join him in coordination with Home Depot on the most worthwhile project.)
- V. Meet a Member of the MAC: Arnold Lorea. Arnold began by asking Pete Fairchild the year in which Ruppert Sargent was born. When Pete responded 1938, Arnold said, "We have something in common, our birth year." Arnold expressed his pleasure in serving with the MAC and mentioned that his service began upon receipt of a letter from the City of Hampton inviting him to participate in an effort on behalf of the city. He "had no clue why I and others were asked to help develop something for city council," and yet he and "lots of folks showed up and seemed comfortable in the conference room." His curiosity led him to attend the meetings just to see where and how he might fit in. During this time, he volunteered and joined the Communication Subcommittee. Little by little, he also began to plan and execute logistics requirements, such as in support of Days of Remembrance and Hope, and he continues to do what he can for the MAC when the need arises. Arnold mentioned that he normally didn't like talking to large groups, that he feels more comfortable with a small group or one-on-one. He closed by saying that his grandparents came from Mexico.

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VI. Chairman's Remarks.

- A. We appreciate members' support of the eleventh observance of "A Day of Remembrance and Hope" at 8 AM, Tuesday, September 11th, Gosnold's Hope Park. The ceremony received attention from varying media sources --
1. Joint Base Langley-Eustis.
 - a. Print: <http://www.jble.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123317455>. For any photos that are pulled / used at any other location, site, etc., please use this line in conjunction with their posting: " (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jarad A. Denton/Released)"
 - b. Video. <http://www.jble.af.mil/news/video/index.asp?cid=49&sid=31352>
 2. WAVY and FOX TV Coverage:
http://www.wavy.com/dpp/news/local_news/hampton/hampton-holds-day-of-hope-for-911#.UFCdQkX0r5s.facebook
 3. Photos taken of the event, by MAC member Brian Rueger. He says you are welcome to use the photos -- free -- in any way you might choose. <http://tinyurl.com/9xbfbml>
- B. We were also honored with the presence of Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco, an amazing American who shared her story of extraordinary courage in defense of freedom. Following the 1939 invasion of Belgium by the Nazis, though American, Mrs. Barraco chose to serve with the Belgian underground and Resistance. Later captured, she was shipped to Nazi prison camps in both Belgium and France, where she was subjected to savage and merciless experiments and torture by the Gestapo. This kind, soft-spoken and courageous lady is an unwavering American patriot, offering bold testimony both to the blessings of freedom and the calamity of its loss.
1. Ann Bane has suggested that Dame Mary's forceful and emotional testimony might well fit into the Hampton School System's curricula.
 2. An outstanding video was prepared of the event as a community service by Mr. Selvin Walker, Event Videographer at Junctions, 1188 Big Bethel Rd., Box 115 ~ Hampton, VA 23666 , phone 757-268-4363, Email video@junctions.us. We very much appreciate his support and the excellence of the video he has provided to us.
- C. Attended a September 21st Opening of a new Women's Clinic at the Hampton VA Medical Center, tripling the space dedicated to the care of women veterans. The new 11,500-square-foot outpatient facility will consolidate medical and mental health care under one roof. The HVAMC has seen a twenty percent increase in women patients from fiscal year 2010 to 2012. Women are now twenty-three percent of the Hampton patients from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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- D. Fundraising for the MAC. The time has clearly come for the MAC to take a new look at how to fund its activities. We have relied on others to find money in other accounts to support our events. We will be actively exploring other options with the City Manager next week. If our current glide-path is any indicator, the MAC will almost certainly be expanding its support to the city and its active-duty force, veterans and their families and we, quite obviously, will need the funding to support our emerging needs.
- E. The agenda items typically associated with our monthly MAC meetings were waived the evening of September 11th, so that Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco could serve as guest speaker. Again, we appreciate the extraordinary video record of the event provided by Mr. Selvin Walker, Event Videographer with Junctions, video@junctions.us. Given approval to use the video in any way we choose, we are coordinating with Marketing INC to post the video on the City's YouTube account in effort to extend the reach of her remarkable speech.
- F. As Shelly Bennett, Home Depot mentioned, meetings continue on the Veterans' Construction Project with the latest at 8 AM, October 5th. Their intent, at this stage of the planning process, is to plan for projects they can perform over the coming year.
- G. Co-op apartment offer. A family has recently offered an apartment located at Atlantic Shores Senior Community in Virginia Beach, to a charity; especially an organization whose mission is to aid military veterans. We solicit ideas for proper disposition.
- H. Passing of Lieutenant Colonel Lee A. Lewis Jr. (US Army, retired), who died on October 7th. We cannot offer enough good words about this extraordinary gentleman. Despite the staggering loss in his son and namesake, PFC Lee A. Lewis, Jr. in battle in Sadr City, Iraq on March 18, 2005, without complaint or disruption of his always positive attitudes, Lee Sr. continued to soldier on. Remarkably, he contributed his own labors each year in planning Days of Remembrance and Hope and in preparing personalized seating markers for VIP's attending, despite efforts to encourage him to relax and receive recognition that day rather than to serve others. He had a servant's heart and a sunny disposition until the end of his days.
- I. Death of Scotty Bowers, HCS, PEG-47 supervisor. Scotty was a friend of the MAC and valued partner in our Day of Remembrance and Hope ceremonies, guiding videotape production. The funeral was at 11 AM, Saturday, October 6th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2551 North Armistead Avenue, Hampton.
- J. MAC member Andy Greenwell is at home, recovering from a recent stroke.
- K. Upcoming Events
 - 1. 8 AM - 5:45 PM, Tuesday, October 9, 2012 - 8:00am to 5:45pm at the ODU Ted Constant Convocation Center 4320 Hampton Boulevard in Norfolk a Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Employers Conference. The Virginia Employment Commission

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reports that it is designed to introduce companies to how to actively recruit, onboard, train, and retain Veterans as well as how to navigate through the military transition programs and take advantage of Government Funding to reimburse your organization for training and on-boarding expenses. Attendance is encouraged for companies of all sizes who are vet friendly and want to become vet strong.

2. At 10 AM, Friday, October 12th, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 2 and former MAC member John King will host a USS Cole Commemoration Ceremony.
3. 9 AM, Saturday, October 13, 2012 Phoebus Days Parade. Peggy Mertz and Pete Fairchild confirmed their intent to participate. Jim Wilson continues his search for a willing volunteer to contribute a convertible to the cause.
4. 9 AM - Noon, Monday, October 22, Annual Volunteer Orientation, HVAMC Building 83
5. 9 AM - Noon or 6 PM - 9PM, October 23, Annual Volunteer Orientation, HVAMC Building 83
6. 10 AM, Monday, October 29, 2012, Service Commanders and Stake-holders Meeting, HVAMC Building 83
7. 11 AM - 1 PM, November 12th, Veterans Day ceremony at the Newport News Victory Arch, 25th Street and West Avenue, sponsored by American Legion, Braxton-Perkins Post 25
8. 12:30 PM, November 11th, Veterans Day Ceremony, Fort Monroe

VII. New Business. City Staff Reports, Updates and Reviews. -- Bruce Sturk

A. Request to Amend Commonwealth Budget to Provide Matching Funding for Langley Air Force Base Clear Zones

1. The City of Hampton, working in conjunction with Newport News, Poquoson and York County, as well as Langley Air Force Base, remains committed to the findings of the 2010 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) that surfaced concerns that encroachment around the Langley Clear Zone could hamper the mission of Langley AFB and place at risk the \$1.2 billion economic impact that the base provides local communities. Our city cannot afford another BRAC or like process that might compromise continuing operations at Langley Air Force Base.
2. Efforts continue to ensure the Commonwealth of Virginia affords assistance to Hampton and other local communities in effort to avoid BRAC actions or similar federal defense cuts.

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3. The City of Hampton agreed to match a Commonwealth of Virginia appropriation, if approved, of \$3-million in 2013 and 2014, in order to purchase property from willing sellers that are in the Langley AFB Clear Zone. Efforts are ongoing to ensure changes in the wording of anticipated legislation in the coming months to facilitate this action.
- B. Update on the proposed State Veterans Care Center in Hampton Roads. The City position remains unchanged.
- C. The City of Hampton remains engaged with the Salvation Army, the Medical Center and others on the issue of veterans who would be displaced by closure of the Salvation Army building on the Hampton VA Medical Center grounds. The Holy Father Retreat House, 1414 N. Mallory, remains under consideration for that purpose, and negotiations are ongoing with the Diocese of Richmond and Father of the Redeemptorist. As discussed in earlier meetings, terms and conditions of a lease would have to be agreed upon, proposals would have to go before the Planning Commission and a recommendation before City Council. All necessary safety standards would have to be met and it might prove highly problematical for the Salvation Army to find funding to install a new fire-safety sprinkler system, the installation of which could require approximately \$300,000, difficult under any circumstances and particularly for a location that would not be owned, but leased.

VIII. Open Discussion

- A. Marti Chick Ebey -- Highlights of FY 2012 Data. Officially, 991 calls were received from the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans hotline thus far in FY12; making the HVAMC seventh highest in call volume nationwide. Of those calls at least 27% were from families, 25% were from Female Veterans and at least 13% were from OIF/OEF/OND Veterans. In the fourth quarter, HUD-VASH provided housing assistance to eight Hotline callers (primarily families); 14 were admitted to Domiciliary Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation programs, at least seven were registered and vested with VAMC, two were admitted to inpatient units and countless others were referred to community resources. In FY13, The HVAMC will be tracking calls by locality, so they will be better prepared in the future to determine how many callers come from each locality in our region
- B. Joy distributed the 2012-13 schedules for "A Night's Welcome" (Hampton) and "PORT" (Newport News) shelters. These are the winter sheltering programs that give homeless people an opportunity to come in from the winter weather and have a place to sleep and a warm meal and services are provided by volunteers within area faith-based communities. She reported that seven individuals had been assisted to date through the 1000 HOMES Campaign, the effort that identified homeless people last March who were most vulnerable to die on the streets due to medical and health conditions. Marti Chick-Ebey with the VA also reported that four veterans had been assisted with VASH vouchers and now were in permanent housing.

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C. Command Chief Master Sergeant Gary Carter, First Fighter Wing, JBLE. Congestion continues on Armistead Avenue because of closure of the LaSalle Gate. While the Air Forces continues to have concerns about suicide, sexual harassment issues are also commanding increased attention. It is important to note that the USAF, as each of the other uniformed services, is part of larger American society, and inappropriate gender-specific behaviors are not necessarily the result of anything unique to the military-specific environment that might promote such behaviors. In its response to warranted concerns, as part of a continuing effort to ensure everyone is engaged in ensuring a proper environment, the USAF is actively encouraging "bystander intervention," by those who might perceive improper or inappropriate behaviors.

**Next Regular MAC Planning Session: 11 AM, Thursday, 8 November 2012
The Council Conference Room, 8th Floor, City Hall**

**Next MAC Meeting: 5 PM, Tuesday, 13 November 2012
1st Floor Veterans Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building, 1 Franklin Street, Hampton**